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12/17/03  
A.W.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: T.W. Bish et al. Examiner: Mohammad Ali  
Serial No.: 09/436,506 Group Art Unit: 2177  
Filed: November 9, 1999 Docket No.: TU999036  
TITLE: METHOD, SYSTEM, AND PROGRAM FOR ACCESSING DATA FROM  
STORAGE SYSTEMS

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 5, 2003.

David W. Victor

**AMENDMENT SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST FOR  
CONTINUED REEXAMINATION (RCE)**

**RECEIVED**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DEC 11 2003  
Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is submitted concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination in response to the Final Office Action dated August 5, 2003 and Advisory Action dated November 24, 2003, in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-27 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) in view of cited prior art. Applicants have amended certain claims to distinguish over the cited art and traverse the prior art rejections with respect the pending claims, including amended claims, and submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein.

**Amendment to the claims** begins on page 2.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9.